Drafting of Plans on Five Year Basis

4625. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether plans are drafted on five year basis;

(b) if so, the logic behind such five year plans;

(c) whether Government have ever considered to draft two or three years plan;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) Yes Sir, the plans are formulated for a period of five years. They are, however, anchored in a 15-year perspective and are operationalised through Annual Plans. The process of plan formulation plan cannot be delinked from the political process in the country. A five-year period for the Plan implies that it can potentially coincide with the tenure of the government. Moreover, it constitutes a reasonable period for initiating, implementing and reaping the benefits of public development initiatives in the form of specific plan programmes, schemes and projects. Shorter time durations would introduce some uncertainty in funding of long gestation projects and would make the process of monitoring and evaluation less effective.

(c) No, Sir. The Annual Plans serve this purpose.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) As explained in (a) and (b).

High Level Committee for Population Control

†4626. SHRI B.P. SINGHAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any High Level Committee for Population Control was constituted under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister;

(b) the names of the members of the Committee and the number of meetings of the said Committee held so far;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) the decisions taken by the Committee regarding population control and the pace of implementation of these decisions; and

(d) the details of the special achievements regarding Family Planning during the last five years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (d) The National Commission on Population (NCP) was constituted under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister to review, monitor and give directions for the implementation of the National Population Policy 2000. The Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission is the Vice Chairman of the NCP. All the Chief Ministers, concerned Central Ministers, representatives of major political parties, NGOs, the media, the private sector and specialists are members of the Commission. The first meeting of the NCP was held on 22nd July 2000. The Commission has undertaken many initiatives to help the process of stabilization of the population of the country. A few of these are indicated below:

- On the basis of the decisions taken at the first Conference of the Commission and the Strategic Support Group of Secretaries of the concerned Departments, eight Working/ Advisory Groups were constituted by the NCP. The report/ recommendations of these Group have been forwarded to the concerned Departments and taken into consideration, to the extent possible, in the sectoral programmes of the Tenth Five Year Plan.
- A thorough review of the implementation of the National Family Welfare Programme in the high fertility States and at the national level.
- Identification of 133 districts having TFR 73.5 for focused action for population stabilization followed by a conference of DMs of these districts of discuss and decide about various matters relating to population stabilization.
- Selection of social, economic and demographic indicators for monitoring purpose.
- Conference of Demographic Research Organisations for integrating the results of research with policy formulation.

- Field visits for evolving grass-root level models for addressing various issues relating to population stabilization. On this basis, area specific field level initiatives will be undertaken with the involvement of PRIs, NGOs, Women Self-Help Groups and Youth Organisations.
- Two Ministerial Conferences were organized for convergence of social sector programmes.

As a result of the efforts of the NCP, it has been possible to bring population issues upfront in the District Action Plans (DAPs) formulated/being formulated by the high fertility districts. The Commission has also given additional Central assistance to the most backward districts to implement their DAPs.

The achievements relating to some major demographic indicators for the period 1994 to 1999 are given below:

S. No.	Item	1994	1999
1.	Crude Birth Rate	28.7	26.1
2.	Crude Death Rate	9.3	8.7
3.	Natural Growth Rate	19.4	17.4
4.	Total Fertility Rate	3.5	3.1
5.	Infant Mortality Rate	74.0	70.0

Percentage of Population Living below Poverty Line

4627. SHRI LAJPAT RAI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of population of the country living below the poverty line at the beginning as well as at the end of the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) the steps being taken to improve the situation; and

(c) the other details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) The Planning Commission estimates poverty at national and state level from the large sample surveys on household consumer expenditure conducted by the